

1/24/2008

SUBMISSION FOR THE RECORD

TO: SUBCOMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY- 1-16-08 Social Security- Hearing On Social Security Benefits for Economically Vulnerable Beneficiaries

FROM: GEORGE G. MAY
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RE: REPEAL OF WEP and GPO

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In the 1960's my wife & I started careers in education. "Teaching" was our love & education was our goal.

After a few years, my wife realized that the income from teaching was not enough to raise a family. She enrolled in a university program for accounting & received her CPA certification in Illinois. She very reluctantly left teaching & moved into the private sector.

My career remained in education & in 1999 I retired from a very fulfilling career in our school district.

Illinois state law mandated a deduction of 7% - 8% of my pay to the Illinois Teachers Retirement System. Please note that neither my school district nor the State of Illinois contributed anything to my pension. If I could have made the above deductions into a private retirement plan I would have done so. Ironically the retirement benefits would have been about the same plus I would have had the advantage of owning the principal.

During my teaching career, my salary was never quite enough to make ends meet- so I sought part time employment after school and in the summers in the private sector. As a result, I have met the basic requirements for Social Security benefits.

In 2003, at the age of 59, my wife developed an illness that left her permanently disabled & she was forced to give up her professional career. She is currently collecting Social Security Disability benefits.

The WEP / GPO unfairly reduce/eliminate my Social Security spousal benefits & my own SS benefits. I have met my obligations in both systems. I feel I have a right to the benefits.

Please vote for TOTAL repeal of the WEP and GPO. Repealing the WEP/GPO shows good faith on the part of the government that education is important and is well worth the investment. It would send a signal that will attract highly qualified people to enter the educational field.

Thank you